



Artist: Siobhán Jordan

Winter Shadow Box

Silhouettes are the shape we see in black when light shines behind an object, like when the sun is setting and we see the trees in black. We can get this effect in our own house by taking a small piece of a large tree and using LED lights to light them from behind making our own little big tree!

Questions to ask

Which trees make the best little big trees?

What other materials can you collect which look good when lit from behind? Items which have an interesting outline / holes or cutouts in the middle might look cool.

Describe the contours / outlines of the items you collected. Are they curvy, straight, angled?

Additional activities / ideas for shadow boxes

I've used winter themed animals and objects in my shadow box. You could play around with other themes. Fairies, houses / streetscapes, people dancing, space, all might be fun themes for you to explore.

Look through magazines for pictures of people dancing. Stick these onto card and cut out the shapes to make interesting silhouette shapes.

In the olden days artists used to make silhouette portraits of people. This was a side profile of a person's face cut out in black paper and mounted on white. This idea could work really well in a shadow box too.

Materials

- Box
- LED Lights (battery operated. Ensure these are LED lights which don't get too hot)
- Tracing paper (or greaseproof paper)
- Masking tape
- foliage (ever green cuttings work really well - spruce or pine tree. -Bare branches are great too)
- White paint
- Paper (I've used a variety of papers, old newspapers, printer paper, tracing paper.)
- Scissors
- Craft Knife
- Needle and thread
- Blu tack / Glue gun

Important Information

** Fire Hazard

This is not suitable for plug in lights - only use LED Battery operated lights which don't emit heat

Craft knives are sharp! Please get an adult to do the steps which involve using a craft knife.





1. Go for a walk in your garden or local park or river bank. Collect your own 'little big trees' see what other interesting shapes you can see and collect while you're out. Don't forget to bring a basket or a bag for all your bits! When you get back home select your foliage and cut down to size so it will fit into the box.



2. Paint roughly with white paint to add 'snow' and leave to dry.

3. Make some snowflakes start with a square of paper. Fold corner to corner to make into a triangle. Fold again to make a smaller triangle. Fold back the open corner which is on top onto itself three times. Try and keep the three folds even. Press down folds. Turn over paper and fold back the open corner on the other side three times, matching what you've done on the front. Trim off the bottom of the wedge. Cut random shapes from the sides of the wedge. Make sure you leave spaces between the cut out shapes so the snowflake will stay together. Gently unfold your paper and enjoy your snowflake.



4. Measure 1cm from the back of your box along the two sides. Cut a narrow slit along both sides of the box. 1cm from the top and bottom, 1cm from the back.

5. Cut a flap at the back of the box to thread your lights through.

6. Thread the lights through and secure the battery pack at the back with masking tape.

7. Secure the lights into position with small tabs of masking tape.



8. Cut the tracing paper / greaseproof paper down to size. To get the correct size: Length of slit made on side of box - 1cm = height of paper width of the box + the sides of the box (both sides) = length of paper.

9. Feed the tracing paper through the slits and secure with tape at the back of the box.

10. Cut out animal silhouette. Either print the animal shapes provided or copy them onto card. Carefully cut out. Resize them to suit your shadow box. Remember to include the foldable tab at the bottom of the deer.

11. Hang your snowflakes. Cut slits along the top of the box using a craft knife.



12. Thread your needle and secure the thread to the snowflakes using a small piece of tape. Bring the thread up through slits made on top of box and secure into position using some tape. Cut thread and use same method for all the stars you wish to add.

13. Place your trees into position using a glue gun or large pieces of blu tack.

14. Fold your cut out animal along the bottom to make a tab. Using tape stick the tab down.



